Skill 5

Skill practice 1

1. At the end of their analysis, the authors conclude that political oppression it increasing in some parts of the world.
2. Although the government would like you to believe that its programs are helping the economy to recover, unemployment continues to ride and investment is falling.
3. Most people who have not lived in cultures other than their own assume that the rules for polite speech and behavior are universal.
4. People who watch a great deal of television tend to perceive the world as more violent than it really is.
5. A frequent allegation that is made about people between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five is that they have no interest in politics.
6. The last statistics, which show an increase in the illiteracy rate, do not support the government’s claim that its programs have brought about improvements in education.
7. The tendency of immigrants to live in their own ethic communities is sometimes interpreted as evidence that they do not wish to become integrated into U.S. society.
8. The researchers argue that much more information is needed before anyone can adequately describe hoe people adjust to life in a new culture.
9. Relations between the company and its workers worsened after the employees charged that the company wanted to destroy their union.
10. Among Americans, a common perception is that most immigrants enter the United Sates illegally.

Skill practice 2

1. There is a widespread belief that cardiovascular disease is a problem only in affluent societies and that it attacks mostly men. Studies from the 1990s, however, provide evidence that this view of CVD is no longer valid.
2. Some years ago, it was argues, usually by Western experts, that overpopulation in developing nations was one of the main cause of widespread poverty. According to more recent studies, however, this analysis of the relationship between poverty and overpopulation is seriously flawed.
3. Even before vaccination became available, people in the West considered measles to be a relatively minor childhood disease that was more of an inconvenience than a serious danger to health. But past and present experience shows that such an optimistic view of this highly infections disease is unwarranted.
4. There is a tendency among nonexperts to regard primary health care in developing countries as exclusively for the prevention of disease. Yet a closer misperception.
5. The fact that some first-generation immigrants continue to speak their first languages might suggest that these immigrants and their families are unwilling to become a full part of their new society. Studies by scientists, on the other hand, cast doubt on the validity of this conclusion.

Skill practice 5

1. There is a widespread belief that cardiovascular disease is a problem only in affluent societies and that it attacks mostly men. This was perhaps true in the 1950s, when CVD was first identified as a major health risk. However, more recent studies indicate that this view of CVD is questionable. In many parts of the world, CVD is the leading cause of death among women under sixty-five. It is also becoming more common in less affluent countries and is expected to be the leading cause of death there by 2010.
2. Many people assume that the rules for polite social behavior are universal. They claim that all societies have the same rules, for example, for how and when to thank others. Yet research on intercultural communication shows that this apparently reasonable assumption is unjustified. In fact, the rules for social behavior may differ, sometimes widely, from culture to culture. Studies have established, for instance, that some Asian cultures do not give or expect to receive thanks while shopping, but Americans do.
3. Even before a measles vaccine became available, people in the West considered measles to be a relatively minor childhood disease that was more of an inconvenience than a danger to health. But past and present experience shows that such an optimistic view of this highly infectious disease is unwarranted. Measles, with its many complications – including diarrhea and pneumonia – is, in fact, potentially fatal. Before the vaccine became widely available late in the twentieth century, measles killed an estimated 8 million children annually. In 2000, the disease caused an estimated 700,000 deaths in developing countries.